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March 1, 2005

Ms. Jaclyn A. Brillling
Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350,

Dear Ms. Brillling,

We are writing this letter to voice Rensselaer's strong support for the continuation of the System Benefits Charge (SBC) and to suggest changes to the program that would allow the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to expand its current energy research activities. Investments in energy research offer an opportunity to affect New York State's economic development, and prosperity through energy conservation and new renewable energy technologies development.

The energy research that the SBC should support can bring substantial value to the rate payers of New York in a number of areas. They range from the reduction in overall electricity usage through energy efficiency advances in lighting systems, and the associated benefits of lower generation requirements and easing of strains on the transmission and distribution networks, as well as providing for the development and implementation of clean, renewable technologies such as solar power and fuel cells. It is imperative that New York promote these efforts to further reduce the impact of traditional electricity generation practices and accelerate the deployment of clean, alternative and renewable sources of electricity generation. The addition of energy research programs supported by the SBC will directly impact New York's ability to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard recently issued by the Public Service Commission.

Additionally, there are also a number of economic development activities here at Rensselaer that can be further leveraged through expanded energy research activities. Transitioning technologies from the laboratory to New York companies will allow the State to expand its manufacturing base and create jobs in a rapidly expanding energy industry. The newly formed Future Energy Systems Center for Advanced Technology at Rensselaer brings together a wide range of energy activities, including fuel cells, renewables, solid state lighting and the hydrogen economy, under one umbrella with the goal of moving these technologies into the market place in

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partnership with New York companies. The research that can be supported by the SBC would be extremely complimentary to this effort and should be implemented.

We respectfully request that the SBC be extended and the programs that it supports be expanded to include energy research activities that promote energy conservation and alternative, renewable electricity generation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O Nalamasu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and a long, sweeping tail on the "u".

Omkaram Nalamasu

Director, Future Energy Systems Center for Advanced Technology

Kennet Gertz

Assistant Vice President of Research

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